

RPV TV begins sending signals

CABLE: Channel 33, a student-run venture between the city and a nonprofit learning center, debuts with a council meeting.

By Josh Grossberg
DAILY BREEZE

Three, two, one, television Rancho Palos Verdes is now on the air.

Residents of the Palos Verdes Peninsula now have a new choice in their already lengthy cable lineup: At precisely 10 a.m. Saturday, Channel 33 began broadcasting.

It started inauspiciously enough with a Rancho Palos Verdes council meeting, followed by interviews with local dignitaries, but in the coming weeks, months and years, organizers hope to have a steady supply of helpful community information, as well as entertaining programming.

And most of it will be produced and aired by students.

RPV-CTV Channel 33 is a joint operation between the city of Rancho Palos Verdes and Palos Verdes on the Net, a nonprofit learning center run by Ted Vegvari. Under the deal, the city will operate the station's small building on the sprawling Civic Center site, while Vegvari paid for all the equipment and will mentor the students.

"The goal is to provide training for kids," Vegvari said. "This is a place where kids can come and have a positive experience."

The building contains a small studio, banks of lights, a handful of professional editing systems, a voice-over room and other equipment needed to air television shows. The program will focus on the creative side of television, while another component Vegvari has run nearby for years will continue to focus on the technical.

Tyler Fradkin has been studying animation, video-mixing and

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audio. The 14-year-old Redondo Union High student is honing his skills for a future career.

"I want to be a Steven Spielberg," he said. "I want to do everything."

Before Saturday's debut, Tyler worked in anonymity. But now with the channel airing on Cox Communications, he's reaching a potential audience in the thousands.

"It's pretty cool that people watching might see it," he said.

Rancho Palos Verdes Councilman Peter Gardiner said the channel will provide great opportunities not only for the students, but for the community as well.

"We will look back and say, 'Wow, this is something,'" he said. "This will be a source of information for residents and an opportunity for kids to learn about the broadcast industry."

So far, Vegvari has invested about \$150,000 in the venture.

But he said the money is well spent. He currently receives about 20 applications a month from people who want to participate. Each candidate is carefully screened to make sure they are really serious about making a commitment.

There are currently about 30 students participating.

"It's such a cool program," Vegvari said.

At 18, Antonio Guerrero of Rancho Palos Verdes is soon headed off to the University of California, Irvine. But during his participation in the internship, he's learned three-dimensional animation, editing and camera work.

"It's a culmination of what Ted envisioned," he said. "It's really neat. It's the next step, the next level of what PV on the Net can do now."

For more information about Palos Verdes on the Net, visit www.palosverdes.com.